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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/152,008	09/11/1998	SIG H. BADT JR.	ALCA1100-6 8622	
25537	7590 07/31/2003			
WORLDCOM, INC. TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT 1133 19TH STREET NW			EXAMINER	
			HARPER, KEVIN C	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2666	7/
			DATE MAILED: 07/31/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9

Office Action Summary Summary		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Examiner			1				
Kevin C, Harper 2666	Office Action Summary						
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of them may be validable under the governine of 37 CFR 1.136(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely titled. Extensions of them may be validable under the governine of 37 CFR 1.136(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely titled. Extensions of the may be available under the governine of 37 CFR 1.136(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely titled. Extensions of the reply is specified above, is test than thirty (30) days, a reply whith the stuttery minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. If No period for reply is specified above, is test than thirty (30) days, a reply whith the stuttery minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. If the period for reply is specified above, is test than the reliance alleged and villed (in the MINIMUM) (40) (40) and (40) (40) and (40) (40) and (40	,						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensives of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CPR 1 138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely liked. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the stutistery period with or reply is period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the stutistery period with the maining date of this communication. Fallete to reply within the set or acteriode period for reply vill. by stutistic guide with the set of studied period for reply vill. by studies, cause the application to become ARAHDORIDO (30 U.S. c.) \$133). Set the set of the set of the set of studied period of the communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any season and set of the communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any season and set of the communication. 1) Responsive to communication (5) filed on 12 May 2003. Status 1) Responsive to communication (5) filed on 12 May 2003. Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-18 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-19 is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 11-18 is/are objected to. 3) Is/are above claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 11-18 is/are objected to. 3) Is/are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The proposed drawing subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 1) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Edamisms of them may be variable under the providence of 37 CR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be limity filed after SV (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure for reply is specified to the communication of the state of the communication. - Failure to reply visition the set of extended period for reply vill. by statute, cause the application to become ARANDONED (35 U.S. 0, 3 13). - Any reply created by the Office alter then three mornish after the mailing date of this communication, even if furthy filed, may reduce any - Any reply created by the Office alter then three mornish after the mailing date of this communication, even if furthy filed, may reduce any - Any reply created by the Office alter then three mornish after the mailing date of this communication, even if furthy filed, may reduce any - Any reply created by the Office alter then three mornish after the mailing date of this communication, even if furthy filed, may reduce any - Any reply created by the Office alter than three mornish after the mailing date of this communication, even if furthy filed, may reduce any - Any reply created by the Office alter than the reply filed on 12 May 2003 - Status - This action is FINAL. - 20 This action is filed on 12 May 2003 - 41 Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-18 is/are pending in the application. - 42 Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-18 is/are allowed. - (Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-18 is/are allowed. - (Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-18 is/are allowed. - (Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-19 is/are allowed. - (Claim(s) 1,3-6 a	Period for Reply						
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Response to Arguments

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1. Applicant argued that Brady does not disclose transmitting topology information.

However, in Figure 5, step 24, information in an inherently stored topology table is transmitted to neighboring nodes (col. 4, lines 18-21).

2. Applicant argued against examiner's taking of Official Notice that a routing table contains port numbers to identify links. In response, Examiner notes that Suzuki (US 5,796,736; Figure 3 and 11) discloses routing tables containing port numbers to identify link connections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 11-13 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah et al. (US 5,646,936) in view of Brady (US 6,041,049)..

3. Regarding claims 11-12 and 15-16, Shah discloses a method of network restoration comprising mapping a topology of spare capacity (Figure 5; col. 5, lines 66-67) of several spare links interconnecting several nodes (col. 6, lines 16-20). However, Shah does not disclose transmitting the information to an origin node. Brady discloses transmitting topology information to an origin node (Figure 1; Figure 5, step 24; col. 2, lines 48-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to exchange spare capacity information in the invention of Shah in order to provide each node in the network with the available spare capacity of the network. Further, Shah in view of Brady does not disclose identifying port numbers. One skilled in the art would recognize that a cross-connect switch typically has port numbers identifying connections to different working paths and spare

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paths (Shah, col. 5, lines 18-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to identify the spare capacity by port number in the invention of Shah in view of Brady in order to distinguish between the various links connected to the node.

4. Regarding claims 13 and 17, Shah in view of Brady discloses a message (Shah, Figure 8) including an identification of a node (item 703) and a field indicating that the node is a custodial node (item 703; col. 7, lines 3-6). However, Shah in view of Brady does not disclose that the message contains port numbers. One skilled in the art would recognize that a cross-connect switch typically has port numbers identifying connections to different working paths and spare paths (Shah, col. 5, lines 18-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to identify the spare capacity by port number in the invention of Shah in view of Brady in order to distinguish between the various links connected to the node.

Claims 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah et al. in view of Brady et al., as applied to claims 13 or 17 above, in further view of Fisher (US 4,941,089).

5. Regarding claim 14 and 18, Shah in view of Brady discloses a message type field for a packet (shah, Figure 8, item 701). However, Shah in view of Brady does not disclose that the message type field indicates the packet is a continuously exchanged keep-alive packet. Fisher disclose a message type field that indicates a continuously exchanged keep-alive packet (col. 29, lines 28-33; col. 33, lines 23-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have a message type field to identify a packet as a keep-alive packet in the invention of Shah in view of Brady in order for a receiving node to identify the packet and perform the proper operation on the packet (i.e. allow the status of the link to indicate activity and not a fault or failure).

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 703-305-0139. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays, except Wednesday, from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema S. Rao, can be reached at 703-308-5463. The fax number for Technology Center (TC) 2600 is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office for TC 2600 at 703-306-0377.

Kevin C. Harper

July 28, 2003